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REMARKS

In the Official Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, claim 7 has been amended to overcome that rejection and is now believed to be in proper form.

Also in the Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and thus unpatentable over the Bothner patent (U.S. No. 4,205,548) in view of the Stegman patent (U.S. No. 3,338,084). In addition, claims 2 and 9 were rejected under that same statutory section as being obvious in view of Bothner in view of Stegman, and further in view of the Yokoyama patent (U.S. No. 4,839,952).

Finally, the Examiner noted that the subject matter of claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 was allowable and that independent claims directed to those inventions would be allowed. The Examiner also indicated that claims 14-16 were allowable without any changes.

By this Amendment, all of the claims have been amended (or newly added) with the Examiner's comments in mind and are believed to be in proper form and to patentably distinguish from the prior art. It is submitted that none of the cited references, whether taken individually or in any possible combination, discloses or suggests the subject matter of claims 1-40 that now exist in this case.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to specify that "at least one sensor member" is provided in the second die member. The sensor members are used to ensure completion of the inventive process and manufacture of the completed stamped product. This is disclosed in Pars. [0039]-[0040] of the specification. None of the prior art references, either alone or in combination with any of the other references, discloses or suggests this feature – let alone in combination with the other features of the claims.

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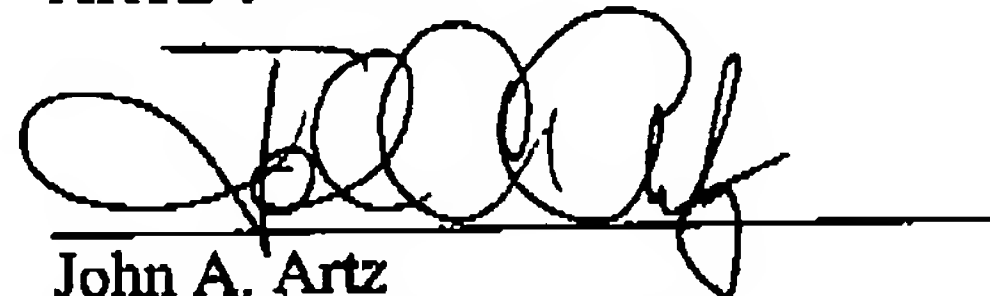
Since independent claims 1 and 8 are now allowable, dependent claims 2-7 and 9-13 are also allowable. In addition, new claims 17-18 have been submitted, both dependent from claim 1. These new claims should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 1.

Finally, the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 has been rewritten as independent claims 19, 24, 30 and 35, respectively. For the same reasons that claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 were deemed to be allowable, new independent claims 19, 24, 30 and 35 are allowable also. In addition, claims 20-23, 25-29, 31-34 and 36-40 dependent from these new independent claims, are allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims remaining in the case, namely claims 1-40, are in proper form and patentably distinguish from the prior art. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1-40 and passage of the application to publication are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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